

# ABENG

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## ANGUILLA AND THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

For centuries now, the people of the Caribbean have had to face imperial military power everytime we make a bid for self-determination. The invasion of Anguilla by Britain this week is neither the first nor the last. Bogle and the people had to face imperial guns in 1865. More recently, Jagan and the people of Guyana in 1953; Castro and the people of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs; Bosch and the people of the Dominican Republic in 1965. And now Webster and the people of Anguilla.

### THE STORY OF ANGUILLA

The people of Anguilla suffered for a long time as a kind of colony of St. Kitts to which Britain had linked it constitutionally. Early in 1967 the Anguillians decided to secede from the union of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. A referendum was held in Anguilla. One thousand eight hundred and thirteen people voted to secede and five to remain in the union.

St. Kitts and Britain were opposed to this move by the Anguillians. Later in 1967, Britain tried to send troops there under the cover of other Caribbean countries. But the Jamaica government withdrew its support and that plan fell through. Since then the Anguillians have set up their own government and tried to come to terms with Britain through discussion.

But all the discussion showed was that the people of Anguilla were determined to stick to their decision. Anguillians got so disgusted they decided to declare their own independence as Smith had done in Rhodesia.

### DIFFERENT RULE FOR BLACK PEOPLE

But the people of Anguilla did not realize that there are two rules - one for white people and the other for black people. This week Britain applied the black rule and invaded the country with 315 troops, three warships and planes. The troops are there to instal a British Commissioner to rule Anguilla and to shoot down any of the people who may resist this imposition.

It is reported that Webster and the people of Anguilla offered no resistance to the invasion. It would seem that in their calculation they would not be able to withstand the military power of the invading force. And they no doubt calculated that the imperialists would have no hesitation in shooting down the 6,000 men, women and children if they were given the slightest cause. But they probably never considered whether or not it is better to die free than to live as a slave. That is the fundamental question. The people of Vietnam have shown the way.

### SCANDALOUS EXCUSE

Britain invaded the island on the pretext that Anguillians are threatened by the presence of the Mafia. That is the most scandalous kind of excuse. For if the people of Anguilla had enough courage to put out the Colonial office, St. Kitts police etc., they are quite capable of putting out any Mafia that they don't want there. The people of Anguilla did not invite Britain to help them. They have demonstrated they can do whatever they want.

### THE LESSONS

We must prepare to meet this violence. Each country in the region and the region as a whole. We must be able to put out any metropolitan power which dares to bring force to the Caribbean next time we take positive steps toward self-determination. Jamaica's turn will come when we seek economic self-determination in bauxite, sugar, banking, etc. We must be ready - to fight and to die if it comes to that.

The latest invasion in the Caribbean like many other before demonstrate many things. Most important is that everytime we as a people have tried to achieve self-determination in a peaceful manner, we are confronted with violence from an imperial power. Guyana 1953, Dominican Republic in 1965. Anguilla 1969. Which one is next?

### ASSEMBLY CALLS FOR ACTION

Another remarkable Abeng Assembly of black people and their supporters took place on Wednesday March 19. Over 400 angry citizens of all classes agreed that British intervention in Anguilla and Canadian brutalization of West Indian students confirmed the experience of a slave society - power grows out of the barrel of guns.

The force used against the students and the Anguillians was present throughout the history of the black struggle for freedom. Unity and organisation now was desirable and possible. Unity between all blacks and others who wished to overthrow white oppression; organisation to meet the attacks which must come against the creation of a

fully human society.

Everybody agreed that in the context of intervention against Caribbean self-determination, Canadian troops studying Jamaica was both sinister and subversive.

The Assembly demanded that the Jamaican unions close down all Canadian and British businesses  
(Continued on p.4)

### PRINCE BUSTA APPEALS TO "SAVE JAMAICA" FROM BEV. HILLS VIOLENCE

my words without gravy and my stomach is now upset. So in the interest of Jamaica, my country, I forward to you the best way in which to wipe out and destroy this cancer.

#### TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Firstly, you must clean up your own house. Clean up your party and also the opposition.

Knowledge of this you cannot deny Mr. Prime Minister, that prior to the 1962 elections my country, which I presume is your country was highly recognised internationally as a very peace-loving and law-abiding country.

When will Beverly Hills and other such surrounding areas be cordoned off by the military and police? It is in these untouchable areas that the evil plans of destruction are master-minded? Violence will cease only when the master minds are brought to justice.

These are the strategic points in which you should direct the military and the police to get rid of the root of evil. Have you forgotten that it was members of your own party and the opposition who issued out these guns that you now search for? Have you forgotten how many lives were lost from bullets fired from those same guns? Do you not realize how many black children will grow up without a father, because of the political war in the last election? History teaches that violence has been the principal companion of both parties.

I now call on you Mr. Prime Minister to charge those among you who are responsible for these murders. These politicians are classified "mentally balanced" but I can assure you that my black brothers on the receiving end are mentally unbalanced.



OF COURSE ANGUILLA IS DIFFERENT FROM RHODESIA... IT'S SMALL, DEFENCELESS ...AND BESIDES - THEY'RE BLACK!

### IN THIS ISSUE!

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Recently we see the Prime Minister working on his so-called anti-violence campaign. Who is he trying to fool? To kill a tree you must destroy the root. Cutting off a few of the tired branches is only decorating the tree. Is the Prime Minister afraid to touch the root because in doing so he may eventually destroy himself? This is my country and as a Jamaican citizen I want to help save Jamaica from this cancerous disease of violence. I have told people all over the world how beautiful my country is and how pleasant and warmly the people would treat them. The present situation has caused me to eat



## ABENG AND CHANGE

Unemployment, poverty and hardship in this country are a direct result of the fact that our human and material resources are being used by foreigners for their own benefit. Suffering can only end if we have a society in which the nation's resources are used for the people of this country. The creation of such a society demands that we overthrow suffering. There is no alternative. The politics of that is mobilization of the Jamaican people; not men with a plan.

We are therefore not concerned with presenting plans for a new Jamaica. To make plans and proposals assumes firstly, that we know what our resources are. We do not. We don't know what our natural resources are because, as a group of people we have never had to survive on the basis of the creative use of our own environment. Quite simply, we do not know the full potential of the land, the sea, the sun, and the vegetation around us. What we do know, we cannot use because we do not have control.

The inability of politicians to put into effect obvious possibilities in areas like bauxite and agriculture merely shows that nothing fundamental can be done until we cease being squatters in our own country.

Secondly, we cannot plan because no one

knows what our human resources are. We know roughly how many people live here, but no one knows what these people can really do. The struggle ahead to reclaim our heritage—to take control of this country—will fundamentally change our people and our society. Different attitudes, values and behaviour patterns will emerge; and fresh institutions and relationships will take root. We cannot anticipate such changes enough to plan for them.

Past and present bureaucratic plans and programmes assume no change in our human resources—a population of anancies trying to catch as catch can. The kind of change Abeng is trying to promote involves a struggle for Jamaicans to take charge of this country. That struggle is a full-time job—just look at the opposition. But, in addition, the struggle itself will transform our human resources.

Plans involve telling people what to do. That is the way slave owners, colonial officials and local political agents of American capitalists behave. That is not our business. Our duty is to help create the environment which will bring forward proposals and action from the people of this country when the time comes. Our present task must be to mobilize the people of this country for the struggle ahead.

## HERBS the true facts Part 2

At the same time that the British Colonial office was applying its liberal policy towards Ganja in India it was busily trying to suppress its use in Jamaica. Perhaps the bureaucrats in charge of "islands in the Caribbean" did not read the report of the Indian Hemp Drug Commission. More likely, they read it together with the sugar interests which have a sizeable stake in the production of rum in Jamaica and decided that such a liberal policy would not be in the interest of the owners of the Jamaican economy. Certainly it was very convenient to the rum producers that Ganja was outlawed in Jamaica.

By the Dangerous Drugs Law of 1924 a first conviction for cultivating, selling, dealing in, possessing or smoking Ganja carried a possible penalty of £100 fine or six months imprisonment, or both; on a second conviction this was increased to £250 fine or two years, or both.

In 1941, four years after the Marijuana Tax Act in the U.S.A. the Jamaican penalties for cultivating, possessing or selling Ganja were increased to a maximum of 12 months imprisonment, without the option of a fine, to which a fine of £100 might have been added on a first conviction. A second conviction merited 2 years imprisonment plus a possible fine of £250. Interestingly the penalty for manufacturing, selling, dealing with or possessing Opium, a truly dangerous drug, remained, and today remains, at the same level as the penalties for smoking Ganja — a maximum of £100 fine or 12 months, or both.

In 1961 the PNP Government made cultivating Ganja triable at Circuit with a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment. This appears to have been done to appease the public hysteria created over the so-called Henry Affair. In 1964, with the JLP in power, the Coral Gardens killings by Rastafarians provided the

spring-board for the most savage and hysterical increases in the penalties for possessing and cultivating Ganja. Since November of that year the penalties are — a minimum of 18 months imprisonment for a first conviction for possession, with 3 years minimum sentence for a second conviction. For cultivating Ganja the first conviction carries a minimum sentence of 5 years and for a second conviction 7 years imprisonment.

At the trial of the Rastafarians for murder the defence sought to prove that the accused persons had been under the influence of Ganja to the extent that they were not responsible for their actions. In answer to this defence the prosecution produced a battery of medical experts who gave evidence that Ganja was a mild intoxicant similar to alcohol and could not have deprived the accused of the intention necessary to commit the crime of murder. The intent, the experts stated, must have existed before, and independently of, the use of Ganja. In the face of this evidence produced by the prosecution lawyers to ensure the conviction and hanging of the Rastafarians, the Government's increase of the sentences for possessing and cultivating Ganja was an immoral and cynical act, typical of the Government.

Apart from the injustice, these increases have created some of the greater absurdities — a person who has a "stick" of Ganja in his mouth and is about to light it, but is arrested before he lights it, is "in possession" and must be sentenced for at least 18 months. If he succeeds in lighting the "stick" before he is arrested, he is only "smoking" and may be fined £10 or £20. Again, a person who is charged with preparing Ganja for export, although he must, of necessity, have it in his possession, may only suffer a fine. Simple "possession" of one grain

(1/436 of an ounce) results in a prison term of 18 months or more at hard labour.

The social effects of this persecution of Ganja are perhaps the worst evils of all. The Ganja trade in Jamaica is a very big business, and a sizable portion of it is illicitly exported. None of the big dealers have ever appeared before the Courts on a Ganja charge, however, and it is unlikely that this will ever happen since there is every reason to think that the big dealers operate under the protection of certain high-ranking police officers and politicians.

It is only the users of Ganja and some small dealers who operate outside the "protection" network who find themselves on Ganja charges, most of which are charges for "possession". The greater the penalties under the law, the higher the prices for the big dealers, the bigger the "pop-off" for their "protectors", and the bigger the fees which lawyers charge to defend Ganja charges. Everybody else profits from the suffering inflicted upon the poor; suffering which, ironically, is inflicted because they try to escape from the reality of the miserable existence which a capitalist society imposes upon them.

Other forms of corruption also also result from the persecution of "herbs". Being a relatively easy charge to concoct, policemen sometimes "frame" persons who for one reason or another, they want to "put away". On the other hand, the police, like most other persons, know that Ganja offences are not criminal acts of an anti-social nature involving injury to person or property. Because of the severe mandatory punishments, therefore, they are often disposed to "wink an eye" at Ganja offences if it is made worth their while to do so. This can often lead to bribery on a larger and more serious scale.

# Marcus Garvey

## AN INSPIRING VISION

"So Negroes, I say, through the Universal Negro Improvement Association, that there is much to live for. I have a vision of the future, and I see before me a picture of a redeemed Africa, with her dotted cities, with her beautiful civilization, with her millions of happy children, going to and fro. Why should I lose hope, why should I give up and take a back place in this age of progress? Remember that you are men, that God created you Lords of this creation. Lift up yourselves, men, take yourselves out of the mire and hitch your hopes to the stars; yes, rise as high as the very stars themselves. Let no man pull you down, let no man destroy your ambition, because man is but your companion, your equal; man is your brother; he is not your lord; he is not your sovereign master.

"We of the Universal Negro Improvement Association feel happy; we are cheerful. Let them connive to destroy us; we shall fight the more. Ask me personally the cause of my success, and I say opposition; oppose me, and I fight the more, and if you want to find out the sterling worth of the Negro, oppose him, and under the leadership of the Universal Negro Improvement Association he shall fight his way to victory, and in the days to come, and I believe not far distant, Africa shall reflect a splendid demonstration of the worth of the Negro, of the determination of the Negro, to set himself free and to establish a government of his own.

Philosophy and Opinions,  
Marcus Garvey

A word must be said about the recent controversy in our Courts caused by the admission of the Government analyst that he could not distinguish the pistillate (female) plant from the staminate (male) plant. Our law, taking into account the accepted medical knowledge that the only effective intoxicant comes from the female (pistillate) plant, defines Ganja by reference to the pistillate plant. Recently it has come to the attention of the legal profession that the tests used by the analyst could not tell whether the plant was the pistillate or the staminate plant and so the point was raised in a number of cases until a decision was forced on the issue. The Court of Appeal has not yet pronounced on the matter, but if the Appeal Court upholds the point that the prosecution is unable to prove that the substance for which people are being charged is "Ganja", then every conviction for Ganja up to now has

been based on incorrect evidence by the Government analyst.

While awaiting a decision from the Court of Appeal, the Government is postponing all trials of Ganja offences. What it will do if the Court of Appeal agrees with the controversial decision is anybody's guess.

Clearly there is a desperate need to revise the law and remove Ganja from the list of dangerous drugs altogether. Anything short of this is a dishonest compromise with existing prejudices. Hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans are daily defying the Dangerous Drugs Law and running the risk of 18 months or more imprisonment at hard labour. Their courageous action is teaching them to disrespect a society that is callously indifferent to the obvious injustice of laws like the Dangerous Drugs Law — and which reflects the double standards upon which our social order is built.

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## BLOW THE HORN TELL THE PEOPLE

(Letters must be signed. Names withheld on request. - Ed.)

Greetings in the name of the Almighty and let His blessings shine upon you to let you keep the horn of the Abeng blowing; long, long time have I yearned for a media such as this, where one could express one-self without fear of not getting full self-expression. I enclose a copy of a poem I have written some months ago, and would like you to publish same, I am always writing and saying things about the struggle of the black masses so from now on I will always contribute them to the Abeng for publication; I shall be the pseudonym Vince, being some of my writings may be considered subversive by the system, so its just for security, till certain periods have elapsed.

VINCE

I have had the pleasure of reading two copies of your paper and to tell you my brother, I was really and truly moved.

This was what we really wanted a long time ago, something that can really spell it out to the people. If the people could only think of themselves as MAN instead of just being an ordinary black man. I tell you brother it surely wouldn't be so bad.

Why has our people got to vote? Year after year politicians do the same thing over and over just thinking of themselves.

Abeng try to let the people see themselves more clearly. I know you can control the masses that means YOUTH 'cause we are strong.

BONGO "Q" IGUN

The "Big Wheels" in the hotel business are constantly reminding Jamaicans about the importance of courtesy and good inter-personal relationships. (And rightly so!)

Yet some of them are certainly not practising what they so ardently preach and, what is more, tend to treat their Jamaican employees like dirt.

There is a certain big hotel in these parts with a certain foreign youngster as some sort of Assistant Manager who seems incapable of getting along with guests or with employees. So uncouth and discourteous he is!

The wonder is, how this fellow got such an important post in the first place and why they persist in having him there despite his obvious failings. The Management could not convince me that we do not have better qualified and more courteous Jamaicans to replace him.

If this "hurry-come-up" outsider believes he can trample on Jamaican workers and make us strangers in our own land then he is sadly mistaken and could very well fry in his own foreign fat.

LEO OAKLEY

In the conclusion of the writing of Marcus Garvey Jr in March 1, 1969 edition, he contradicted the assertion by some of the people who I feel are not following the trends to the "Black Movement". These people he said are thinking that Jamaica has "Black Power" since we have a Black Governor General, and a Black Prime Minister. This is no example of "Black Power" as we can see in a simple but good example I'll give below.

By now all Jamaica should be aware of the demonstration which took place at the J.S.A. on Feb. 13th by some 200 students. These students were demonstrating against victimization, and the dictatorial attitude of their Principal Mr. G.F.F. Gayle. Who is this man Gayle? He is yet another Black man, whose attitude the black man needs not. A man with a good mind, regardless of Nationality, should not victimize a person during his period of study.

Mr. Gayle has some influence on those students just as how Shearer has influence on the well-being of the Nation. If they turn the key of progress backward, then the students, and the Nation will reverse to somewhere; only they know where. Mr. Gayle is trying to cut off his students from a close tie with other students by refusing to permit them to join the "Students Union" with U.W.I. and other students.

If Mr. Gayle can get those students his way, then the public will have a hard time to co-op with them when they come out to work. The institution is closed since the 20th February because students refuse to resume classes. Is there any Minister of Government trying to get things going again? If so, I have not heard of it.

I must tell you, I know all the events leading up to the demonstration, some are published, some are not. These are people who know nothing about the events, or sufferings of students, condemning the students' attitude. I will ask them to investigate the matter before they

make further comments. Let us hope our future rulers will soon resume classes.

Sir, I must say thanks for permitting me this valuable space in your column.

ANOTHER SUPPORTER.

We publish below a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, from one of our readers.

Sir, I see the world in a chaotic state heading down into the pit of destruction, and we of the church triumphant holds this present church, who is the governing body of the state, responsible for the destructive ending of the state. The state has been spending billions of pounds daily for the most destructive weapons, not to kill the wild beast of the forest but their brothers and sisters of whom they should have been their keeper. Other billions are being spent daily to invade the heavenly bodies, while millions are dying of hunger here on earth, and the scripture declares "The Heaven, even the Heavens, are for Christ but the earth hath he given to man".

Sir, neither the church or state have achieved the goal "Peace on earth, goodwill to all men", yet the state is going to heaven so that the will of man be done in heaven as is done on earth. Selfishness and unjust distribution of the wealth on earth is causing misery and pain, but still the church remains dormant on the state's attitude. The church and state are blaming the creator for over-population and starvation and are recommending birth control for the effective cure for these problems.

Sir because of my social standing in this society I know that I will not be given the opportunity of meeting you in person to discuss the truth, which is the word of God. This is the reason for me taking this medium of sending you this recorded "Voice of Truth" which speaks for itself, along with this covering letter.

Still at the same time the church is repaching God as being the "Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent", creator.

Well aren't these findings and cure contradictory to the preaching of the God-head? No sane person with financial means and love, would build a smaller home than that which would be necessary for holding his family, nor would he allow

## NATIONAL INSURANCE

### ORPHAN'S PENSION

"Any person taking care of an orphaned child will be granted an Orphan's Pension of 10/- per week until the child reaches age 18. ...."

### SPECIAL CHILDREN'S BENEFIT

"If an unmarried woman dies leaving any children under 18 years of age, and she was the sole supporter of the children, her children will be eligible to receive a special pension at the rate of 5/- per week for each child until the child reaches 18 years of age. THE PENSION WILL BE GRANTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSURANCE OFFICER."

### N.I.S. OPPRESSES POOR BLACK PEOPLE

Compare the National Insurance Law as it discriminates between 'orphans' and 'special' children. The majority of children in Jamaica are illegitimate. N.I.S. is a violation of their human rights. It disregards the fact that each human being is created equal and deserves equal love and consideration from society. And since illegitimacy is almost the rule among the poor and black, N.I.S. is another savage discrimination against this entire sector of our population.

The attitudes of male promiscuity and female acquiescence cannot be changed until the entire colonial structure with its education and indoctrination of all sorts, has been removed.

N.I.S. is keeping our women and their children in bondage.

them to die of hunger, more so my creator the God of Love.

This present out-going church has failed immensely in freeing the spirits of the people with the truth, whilst time is rapidly doing this for no one can "kick against the pricks".

Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastures that feed my people: "ye have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not visited them; behold I will visit upon you the evils of your doings saith the Lord. And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them and will bring them again to their folds and they shall be fruitful and increase and I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed

neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord."

Thanking you for your patient hearing.

JOSEPH B. HAWES

James Earl Ray is sentenced to 99 years imprisonment for murdering Martin Luther King Jr.

A few months ago the widow of Martin Luther King Jr says she forgave the assassination.

And now she does not want the case to close fearing that they might never know who is really behind the assassination.

What do you think of this matter I think her eyes are begin to open and the brain-wash systems are beginning to wear off.

BLACK YOUTH

## SUFFERER'S DIARY

### THE BLACK MAN'S PLAN

On the mountain peak I stand, looking over some green Valley and Lands.  
Standing so long thinking of my plans, feeling so tired to stand, then I saw a stone.  
Line with green grass all around,  
Upon the top I went, so fast my feet was feeling good at last,  
Then came the cool breeze from the valley blowing.  
So cool, in my sleep I heard the whistling of a bird, lonely it was only the bird, was heard.  
Awake I got listening the whistling of a bird,  
It was so sweet as a song, that as I listen on meditation strong,  
In to me, so deep, the first thing I meditate upon is how long will it takes to solve THE BLACK MAN'S PLAN.  
With unity and strength lets roll along.

Struggle on, one by one lets roll along,  
The road is long but victory we shore to win,  
Whistling like that bird we shore to be heard,  
The road is rough the pressure is on  
Brothers and Sisters let's roll along,  
With dignity and faith lets hold upon,  
With love and peace lets look on,  
With Black dignity it needs to carry over.  
The battle must be won,  
Then it will be a song when the battle is won,  
Here comes THE BLACK MAN'S PLAN.





## AFRICAN BATTLELINE



The biggest battle in the whole of Africa is being fought today in the southern part of the continent. It is a battle involving the freedom fighters in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), ruled by the white minority led by Ian Smith, and in Angola and Mozambique, which the Portuguese still say belong to them.

But more countries than these are involved. Zambia, an independent black state led by President Kaunda is giving help to the Zimbabwe freedom fighters and being threatened by Smith in return. Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, which are also in theory independent black states, are playing quite a different game, as we will see. The most important country in southern Africa at the present time, however, the one which is the key to the whole situation, is South Africa.

In South Africa a white minority rules a black majority in a worse tyranny even than that in Zimbabwe. South Africa's white rulers believe that they are the defenders of "Christianity" and "civilisation" against Black Power and Communism, and will help anyone who agrees with them. They are giving economic and military aid to Smith and to the Portuguese, and this makes the task of the black freedom fighters far more difficult, since South Africa is one of the richest and most powerful countries in Africa. The government of South Africa is thus seeking to defend white dominance in southern Africa; as Balthazar Vorster, South Africa's

Prime Minister, has said, "Good friends know what their duty is when the neighbour's house is on fire."

Who are Vorster's "good friends"? We have already noted the racist Smith and fascist Portugal. But Vorster has black friends as well, the governments of Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland. Men like Dr. Banda of Malawi and Chief Leabua Jonathan of Lesotho who are his puppets. Because their countries are also "neighbours" of South Africa, and small and weak, they are afraid to help their black brothers, even secretly. Instead they cringe before Vorster, hoping for economic favours and his military protection if their own people turn against them. Although their black brothers in South Africa are treated as less than human they do not mind, as long as they can be petty tyrants in their own countries.

Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland are lessons for black people everywhere. They were exploited economically and kept poor under colonialism. Now they are politically independent in theory, but in fact their poverty keeps them tied to South Africa and their leaders prefer to be house slaves of Vorster, rather than help their black brothers. Two lessons to learn. It is useless for a country to be politically independent if its economy is still dominated by foreigners. And merely having black men in the top seats of government does not necessarily mean an end to white domination.

## LOCAL GOVT. ELECTIONS SHOW MAJORITY FED-UP

This week's elections confirmed that those who are fed-up with party politics are the majority of Jamaica's adult population. This was despite the papers, radio, television and platforms of the politicians being full of what they called "Local Government Elections".

The spree about who should control the 'pork-barrel' in the different localities of Jamaica, was not really local government elections at all since to have those you must have some local government. And which locality in Jamaica can say that it governs itself? In which village or town do the teachers have any effective say in education, the ordinary citizen any control over the price of goods or the quality of products he gets or the population any control over what gets produced in their particular area? Where is the local government when the local people have no control over the important things in their lives and where the councils subvert the people's interest by handing out menial jobs to the sufferer on the basis of nepotism?

And yet getting a real system of local government was not even an issue in the election! What got talked about instead was the empty promises of men who have no power to do anything but victimise and butter up people according to what the political boss dictates.

With this kind of politics playing it was not surprising who won the majority. It was neither the PNP nor the JLP but the people who are more and more fed up with this foolishness. For there are about a million adults in Jamaica and in so-called adult suffrage the vast majority of ordinary people either couldn't bother to make the effort to register or just didn't vote. This was not because Jamaicans are the most apathetic or lazy people in the world. Perhaps it is because Jamaicans are among the most oppressed and that most of us are aware that today's party politics in Jamaica can do nothing to get rid of suffering. Changing black dog for monkey may give the increasingly small supporters of the out party a chance for work but nothing more.

And so the main significance of the elections is that the parties are able to divide up less and less of Jamaica between them. The Jamaican people are growing out of that style of politics. They are beginning to look around not for a "new party" to keep them in the same rut, but for new forms of struggle which have a chance of taking over their society. Is it surprising then that some people are beginning to steal ballot-boxes which for over a generation, have stolen so much of the nation's energy?

## SIGNPOST

### EXPOSE SUBVERSIVES

A few days before the local Government elections, Manley writes Shearer, Shearer writes Manley, Manley writes Shearer again. The chief politicians (the Prime Minister and his loyal opposer) continue to be the chiefs at talking and doing nothing. What is wrong with these men?

We don't know, nor do we care too much because Manley and Shearer are not important. They can play letter-writing games as long as they don't fool with the people's business. And this is what Shearer's letter of March 15 does. In it he told Manley that he knows of 'subversive groups' and "If you so desire I am willing to share with you the confidential information."

What kind of an insult to the people of Jamaica is this! Does Shearer think that he and Manley own Jamaica? If there are groups in Jamaica subverting the people of Jamaica then the people must be told who they are. The people must know who threaten them; this is public business not PNP-JLP property.

## HOSPITALS - NOT BELLEVUE

The new trend in Psychiatry is for treatment of mentally ill patients within the general hospital setting. In view of this, why - despite the existence of a Psychiatric Department at the University Hospital for 4 years - are there only 6 beds available for Psychiatric patients? Just to illustrate the need for facilities for the mentally ill - there are at present 2,700 patients in Bellevue Hospital.

## ASSEMBLY

(Continued from p.1)

for 24 hours. Secondly, the British and Canadian High Commissioners must be expelled from Jamaica within 48 hours if the British do not withdraw from Anguilla and the Canadians do not stop the trial and set up a commission to investigate the allegations of racism and police brutality.

GET IT FOR LESS

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